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Agriculture development and food security

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mr. Stefano Stefanile (Italy), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.31

Agriculture development and food security

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security,[1] particularly the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security,

Recalling also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[2] Agenda 21,[3] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[4] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[5] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[6] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[7] the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[8] the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the

* Reissued for technical reasons on 4 December 2012.

[1] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[5] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[6] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[7] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[8] Resolution 60/1.

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Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[9] the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals[10] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,[11] as well as its resolutions 65/178 of 20 December 2010 and 66/220 of 22 December 2011,

Recalling further the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,[12] entitled "The future we want",

Recalling its resolutions 66/221 of 22 December 2011 on the International Year of Quinoa and resolution 66/222 of 22 December 2011 on the International Year of Family Farming,

Expressing concern that the multiple and complex causes of the food crises that occur in different regions of the world, affecting developing countries, especially net food importers, and their consequences for food security and nutrition require a comprehensive and coordinated response in the short, medium and long term by national Governments and the international community, reiterating that the root causes of food insecurity are poverty and inequity, and remaining concerned that excessively volatile food prices pose a serious challenge to the fight against poverty and hunger and to the efforts of developing countries to attain food security and nutrition and to achieve the objective of reducing by half the proportion of undernourished people no later than 2015, as well as other internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action,[13] the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later,[14] including the goal of achieving food security for all through an ongoing effort to eradicate hunger in all countries, with an immediate view to reducing by half the proportion of undernourished people no later than 2015, as well as the commitment to achieving the goals set out in paragraph 19 of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[15]

Noting with appreciation the work undertaken by relevant international bodies and organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme, on agricultural development and on enhancing food security and nutrition,

Welcoming national, regional and international initiatives and commitments aimed at improving food security and nutrition,

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[9] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[10] Resolution 65/1.

[11] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. II.

[12] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[13] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the World Food Summit, 13-17 November 1996* (WFS 96/REP), part one, appendix.

[14] Ibid., *Report of the World Food Summit: five years later, 10-13 June 2002*, part one, appendix; see also A/57/499, annex.

[15] See resolution 55/2.

Recalling the commitments made to achieve global food security and to provide adequate and predictable resources through bilateral and multilateral channels, including the financial and policy commitments set out in the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative, and noting with appreciation the launch of the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, which aims to accelerate the flow of private capital to African Agriculture, take to scale new technologies and other innovations that can increase sustainable agricultural production and productivity and reduce the risk borne by vulnerable economies and communities in Africa,

Recalling also the adoption of the Abuja Declaration on the Development of Agribusiness and Agro-Industries in Africa by the African Union Council on 10 March 2010, in which the Council called, inter alia, for renewed commitment to increasing allocations in national budgets to the agricultural sector and for the adoption of programmes to accelerate the development of value chains for strategic food commodities, build competitive food supply systems and reduce reliance on food imports,

Stressing the importance of an enabling international and national environment to increase and sustain investment in the agriculture sector of developing countries and to create a more level playing field in agricultural trade through substantial improvement in market access, substantial reduction in trade-distorting domestic support and the parallel elimination of all forms of export subsidies and disciplines on all export measures with equivalent effect as provided in the mandate from the Doha Work Programme of the World Trade Organization,[16] the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organization of August 2004[17] and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration.[18]

Reaffirming the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, so as to be able to fully develop and maintain his or her physical and mental capacities, and underlining the need to make special efforts to meet the nutritional needs, especially of women, children, older persons, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities, as well as those living in vulnerable situations,

Stressing the importance of the preservation of the natural resource base for food security,

Remaining deeply concerned about the continued large-scale humanitarian disaster being faced by millions of people in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel,

Taking into account the urgent need for action to address the adverse effects of climate change on food security, as well as the root causes of food insecurity, in a manner consistent with the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security,

Acknowledging that food losses and waste, estimated at 1.3 billion tons annually, occur in both low- and high-income countries at all stages of the food supply chain, as well as the consumption stage, and recognizing the need to take urgent measures to reduce pre- and post-harvest losses and waste of food,

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[16] See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

[17] World Trade Organization, document WT/L/579.

[18] World Trade Organization, document WT/MIN(05)/DEC.

Reiterating the importance of empowering rural women as critical agents for enhancing agricultural and rural development and food security and nutrition,

Recognizing that farmers, including small-scale farmers and fisherfolk, pastoralists and foresters, can make important contributions to sustainable development through production activities that are environmentally sound, enhance food security and the livelihood of the poor and invigorate production and sustained economic growth,

Recognizing also the importance and the positive role of smallholder farmers, including women, cooperatives and indigenous and local communities in developing countries, and their knowledge and practices, in the conservation and sustainable use of traditional crops and biodiversity for present and future generations as an important contribution to the achievement of food security, as well as in the implementation of development goals in such fields as employment policy, social integration, regional and rural development, agriculture and environmental protection,

Welcoming the outcome of the thirty-eighth (special) session of the Committee on World Food Security, held in Rome on 11 May 2012, which endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security,[19] and the outcome of the thirty-ninth session of the Committee on World Food Security, held in Rome from 15 to 20 October 2012,

Taking note of the reports of the High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security entitled "Food security and climate change" and "Social protection for food security" and the approved terms of reference for an inclusive consultation process within the Committee to develop and ensure broad ownership of principles for responsible agricultural investment,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[20]

2. *Reiterates* the need to adequately and urgently address agriculture development and food security in the context of national, regional and international development policies, taking into account the importance of enhancing synergies between sustainable agriculture practices, biodiversity, food security, nutrition, and development policies;

3. *Also reiterates* the importance of developing countries determining their own food security strategies, that food security and nutrition is a global challenge and a national policy responsibility and that any plans for addressing food security challenges and the eradication of poverty in relation to food security must be nationally articulated, designed, owned and led and built in consultation with all key stakeholders at the national level, as appropriate, and urges Member States, especially those that suffer from food insecurity, to make food security and nutrition a high priority and to reflect this in their national programmes and budgets;

4. *Calls upon* the international community to support Africa in the implementation of the various programmes under the New Partnership for Africa's

[19] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security* (Rome, 2012).

[20] A/67/294.

Development,[21] especially the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme;

5. *Welcomes* the Zero Hunger Challenge initiative launched by the Secretary-General at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, as a vision for a future free from hunger;

6. *Also welcomes* the proclamation by the General Assembly of 2013 as the International Year of Quinoa[22] and the global launch of the International Year, to be held on 31 January 2013, and encourages all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and all other relevant stakeholders, to take advantage of the International Year as a way of promoting the traditional knowledge of the Andean and other indigenous peoples, contributing to the achievement of food security, nutrition and poverty eradication and raising awareness of their contribution to social, economic and environmental development, and to share good practices on the implementation of activities during the Year, as indicated in the master plan of activities for the Year, entitled "A future sown thousands of years ago",[23] and recalls paragraph 3 of the report of the one hundred and forty-fourth session of the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;[24]

7. *Takes note* of the report of the one hundred and forty-fourth session of the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which stresses the importance of the Organization's support to Globally Important Agriculture Heritage Systems;

8. *Welcomes* the Scaling-Up Nutrition movement, which encourages increased political commitment and programmatic alignment to reduce global hunger and undernutrition, with emphasis on tackling undernutrition in women, especially pregnant and lactating women, and children under two years of age;

9. *Stresses* the need to address the root causes of excessive food price volatility, including its structural causes, at all levels, and the need to manage the risks linked to excessively volatile prices in agriculture commodities and their consequences for global food security and nutrition, as well as for smallholder farmers and poor urban-dwellers;

10. *Also stresses* the need to increase sustainable agricultural production and productivity globally, noting the diversity of agricultural conditions and systems, including through improving the functioning of markets and trading systems and strengthening international cooperation, particularly for developing countries, and by increasing public and private investment in sustainable agriculture, land management and rural development;

11. *Encourages* all stakeholders to take part in the inclusive consultation and negotiation processes within the Committee on World Food Security for the development and broader ownership of principles for responsible agricultural investment that enhances food security and nutrition, taking into account existing

[21] A/57/304, annex.

[22] Resolution 66/221.

[23] A/67/553, annex.

[24] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document CL 144/REP.

frameworks, such as the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Bank;

12. *Recognizes* the need to increase the resilience of food and agricultural production to climate change, and encourages efforts at all levels to support climate-sensitive agricultural practices, including agroforestry, conservation agriculture, water management schemes, drought- and flood-resistant seeds and sustainable livestock management, including the resilience of vulnerable groups and food systems, which can also have a wider positive impact, emphasizing adaptation and mitigation to climate change as a major concern and objective for all farmers and food producers, especially small-scale producers;

13. *Reaffirms* the need to strive for a comprehensive twin-track approach to food security and nutrition security that consists of direct action to immediately tackle hunger for the most vulnerable and medium- and long-term sustainable agriculture, food security, nutrition; and rural development programmes to eliminate the root causes of hunger and poverty, including through the progressive realization of the right to adequate food;

14. *Encourages* efforts at all levels to establish and strengthen social protection measures and programmes, including national safety nets and protection programmes for the needy and vulnerable, such as food and cash-for-work, cash transfer and voucher programmes, school feeding programmes and mother-and-child nutrition programmes, and in this regard underlines the importance of increasing investment, capacity-building and systems development;

15. *Reaffirms* the need to promote a significant expansion of research on food, nutrition and agriculture, extension services, training and education, and its funding, from all sources, to improve agricultural productivity and sustainability in order to strengthen agriculture as a key sector to promote development and to build up resilience to ensure better recovery from crisis and shock, including by strengthening the work of the reformed Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research so as to enhance its development impact, supporting national research systems, public universities and research institutions and promoting technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, the voluntary sharing of knowledge and practices and research to adapt to and mitigate climate change and improve equitable access to research results and technologies on mutually agreed terms at the national, regional and international levels, while giving due consideration to the preservation of genetic resources;

16. *Calls* for closing the gender gap in access to productive resources in agriculture, noting with concern that the gender gap persists for many assets, inputs and services, and stresses the need to invest in and strengthen efforts to meet the basic needs of rural women, including needs relating to their food and nutritional security and that of their families, and to promote adequate standards of living for them as well as decent conditions for work and access to local, regional and global markets;

17. *Invites* Governments and international organizations, in collaboration with cooperatives and cooperative organizations, to promote, as appropriate, the growth of agricultural cooperatives through easy access to affordable finance, the

adoption of sustainable production techniques, investment in rural infrastructure and irrigation, strengthened marketing mechanisms and support for the participation of women in economic activities;

18. *Remains deeply concerned* about the recurring food insecurity in different regions of the world and its ongoing negative impact on health and nutrition, especially in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel, and in this regard underlines the urgent need for joint efforts at all levels to respond to the situation in a coherent and effective manner;

19. *Welcomes* the Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative — Sahel, which aims to promote greater resilience among vulnerable populations in the Sahel by creating greater synergy between emergency actions and long-term strategies aimed at addressing the root causes of food crises, in partnership with the Economic Community of West African States, the West African Economic and Monetary Union and the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel;

20. *Notes* the challenges faced by indigenous peoples in the context of food security, and in this regard calls upon States to take special actions to combat the root causes of the disproportionately high level of hunger and malnutrition among indigenous peoples;

21. *Recognizes* the contribution made thus far by early warning systems, and underlines that reliability and timeliness of systems should be strengthened at the national, regional and international level, with a focus on countries that are particularly vulnerable to price shocks and food emergencies;

22. *Also recognizes* the importance of timely, accurate and transparent information in helping to address excessive food price volatility, takes note of global and regional initiatives, including the Agricultural Market Information System and its Rapid Response Forum, hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Food Security Information System of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Asia-Pacific Food Security Information Platform, and urges international organizations, private sector actors and Governments to participate and ensure the public dissemination of timely and quality food market information products;

23. *Emphasizes* the need to revitalize the agriculture and rural development sectors, notably in developing countries, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner, and underlines the importance of taking the necessary actions to better address the needs of rural communities through, inter alia, enhancing access by agricultural producers, in particular small producers, women, indigenous peoples and people living in vulnerable situations, to credit and other financial services, markets, secure land tenure, health care, social services, education, training, knowledge and appropriate and affordable technologies, including for efficient irrigation, reuse of treated wastewater, water harvesting and storage;

24. *Urges* Member States and international organizations to pursue policies and strategies that improve the functioning of domestic, regional and international markets and ensure equitable access for all to those markets, especially smallholder and women farmers in developing countries, notes the importance of non-trade distorting special measures that are consistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization aimed at creating incentives for smallholder farmers in developing

countries to enable them to increase their productivity and to compete on a more equal footing in world food markets, and urges Member States to refrain from taking measures that are inconsistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization and that have adverse impacts on global, regional and national food security;

25. *Stresses* that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system will promote agriculture and rural development in developing countries and contribute to world food security, and urges national, regional and international strategies to promote the participation of farmers, especially smallholder farmers, including women, in community, domestic, regional and international markets, and emphasizes that the successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round, in accordance with its mandate, would constitute a key action towards the achievement of food security;

26. *Also stresses* the need to remove food export restrictions or extraordinary taxes on food purchased for non-commercial humanitarian purposes by the World Food Programme, and not to impose them in the future;

27. *Further stresses* the need to continue to strengthen cooperation among the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme, the regional commissions and all other relevant entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, the international financial institutions and international trade and economic institutions, in accordance with their respective mandates, in order to increase their effectiveness, as well as to strengthen cooperation with non-governmental organizations and the public and private sectors in promoting and strengthening efforts towards agriculture development and food security and nutrition;

28. *Stresses* the need to significantly reduce post-harvest and other food losses and waste throughout the food supply chain through, inter alia, increased promotion of appropriate harvesting practices, agro-food processing and appropriate facilities for the storage and packaging of food;

29. *Recognizes* the important role and inclusive nature of the Committee on World Food Security as a key organ in addressing the issue of global food security, including in the context of the global partnership for food security;

30. *Encourages* international, regional and national efforts to strengthen the capacity of developing countries, in particular their small-scale producers, in order to enhance the production, productivity and nutritional quality of food crops and to promote sustainable practices in pre-harvest and post-harvest agricultural activities;

31. *Encourages* countries to give due consideration to implementing the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security,[19] as endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security on 11 May 2012;

32. *Requests* the relevant entities of the United Nations system, in accordance with their respective mandates and in the most cost-effective manner, to ensure the speedy dissemination and promotion of the Voluntary Guidelines;

33. *Reaffirms* the commitments to making every effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 in support of developing countries, in

particular those countries that are lagging most behind and those Goals that are most off track, thus improving the lives of the poorest people;

34. *Invites* Member States and other stakeholders to give appropriate consideration to the issue of agriculture development, food security and nutrition in the discussions on the development agenda beyond 2015;

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on developments related to issues highlighted in the present resolution;

36. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Agriculture development, food security and nutrition".